



# Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - open  
Treasurer - open

V. Pres. - open  
Secretary - Dale Brier

**January 22, 2014 1:00 pm**  
Fort Harrison State Park Inn  
Sycamore Room 5830 N. Post Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46216

## Attendance

### **Voting Members Present:**

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt  
Allen County – Ron Zartman  
Carroll County - George Mears  
Cass County- Arin Shaver  
Fountain County - Bob Shepherd  
Huntington County - Dave Hacker  
Knox County - Rama Sobhani  
Miami County – Dick Beamer (proxy)  
Parke County – Phil Cox (alternate)  
Tippecanoe County – Jim Andrew  
Vermillion County – Larry Southard  
Vigo County - Kara Kish  
Wabash County - Mike Beauchamp  
Warren County - Steve Eberly  
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

### **Non-Voting Members Present:**

None

### **Guests:**

John Gettinger  
Brendan Kerns  
Leah Kopp- DNR  
Sara Peel – WREC  
Rae Schnapp – Tippecanoe County

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Jay County – Milo Miller  
Posey County – Ralph Weinzapfel  
Wells County - Scott Elzey

### **Counties not participating**

Gibson  
Sullivan

## Meeting minutes

### **Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda**

Vice President Dave Hacker called the meeting to order at 1 PM everyone introduced themselves. Dave called for proxies, Ken Einselen gave his proxy to Dick Beamer.

Two items were requested to be added to the agenda, the election of officers would be changed from the bottom of the agenda to the top of the agenda, and under New Business there has been a suggestion made for a Policies and Procedures Committee.

### **Comments from Visitors or Guests**

none

### **Review and Approval of the November 13, 2013 Minutes**

Bob Shepherd motioned to approve the minutes as written; the motion was seconded by Kara Kish. Motion passed.

## **Election of Officers**

Vice President Dave Hacker asked that a motion be made to table the election of officers until the next meeting, Kara Kish made the motion and also asked that Dave serve as the interim for the purpose of conducting the meeting, with a second from Jim Andrews the motion passed.

Mike Beauchamp asked about the nominating committee and Dave said a nominating committee consisted of Ralph Weinzapfel and Bill Knowles and a report would be given at the next meeting. Dave explained that if John's paperwork would have come through from Sullivan County that the election of officers would have taken place today. The nominating committee would have suggested the existing slate of officers.

## **President's Report**

Even though John Gettinger is not an official member of the WRHCC today because no appointment had been made by Sullivan County, John went ahead and did the President's report. He commented that he was down at Vincennes for the County Commissioners meeting so that they would re-appoint Rama Sobhani as their delegate from Knox County. He was at Hudsonville, Illinois for a Christmas event and they had started constructing their floating dock which is right across the river from Sullivan County. On January 15, the Banks of the Wabash met at Terre Haute and it was a very good meeting.

## **Finance Report (Dale Brier)**

Dale Brier had a handout with the current revenue and expenses from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) (see attached). The 12/31/13 balance of the WRHCF is \$485,410 and that is with over half of the grant money being encumbered, so expect another \$200,000 to come out of that total for grants. Dave asked if the grants are contracted, signed and working and if the total amount of money has been encumbered. Dale replied that 4 of the 5 grants are in the process. More discussion ensued on the grants and the amount of money that would be left after all of them have been encumbered. Dale suggested that as they get closer to the next grant round, the Commission decide how much money to budget for the next grant round.

Dave then inquired about the gas and oil revenue amount of \$120,043.81. The Commission members began asking about how the amount is figured, what it is actually based on, and who is looking out for the best interest of the Commission. It was then decided that it would be nice if a person could come and speak at the next meeting from Oil and Gas and explain the process. Dale said that he would see what he could do to arrange for someone to be at the March meeting at Turkey Run.

## **Budget (Robert Shepherd)**

Bob said things are looking good, especially for the next grant round.

## **Committee Reports**

**Executive** – The Executive committee met on January 21, to discuss and organize the agenda for the retreat. They also discussed removing the Legislative report from the committee reports, John reported it was an executive decision to take it off the agenda. It was thought that the Commission didn't have a champion in the Legislature that they knew of, however Bob does have someone that he is relatively close to and that he can talk with. Dave did suggest that if anyone has a friend on the Legislature that they are close to that they could inform them on what the Commission is doing. Several members spoke up that they have friends in the Legislature.

**Grants** – Kara announced that the Grants committee would be meeting on the Tuesday evening during the March retreat and gave a time table for having the grant round open. Dale said that would not work and keep the commission approved deadline for grants October 2014. The Grant Committee hasn't met for months and the DNR can't wait until March to start putting things together. Kara then offered to speed up the process a little bit and finalize everything by March. Dale said that the DNR would need something further along than that because in order to open up the grant round in the summer, they have to have the manuals on line and done. Even though the Commission may write something the DNR still has to rewrite it some to make sure everything is legal, objective, and goes according to the DNR process. A final product would have to be done before March, Dale said. Dale said that it is a lot of work for the committee when the DNR is going to have to rewrite it anyway. Dave then threw out the idea of simply postponing it for a year with the time constraints that they were dealing with. The committee didn't realize they were on such short time constraints. Dale reminded the Commission that originally they wanted to hand out grants every other year and they agreed to the October deadline every year. John then added that he felt like that was one of the main functions of the Commission. Dale replied that the main function for the Commission is to set the priorities for the money and that is already done. Dave asked what the four categories were: 1. Public Access and boat ramps; 2. Trails, hard surface trails along the river; 3. Waterfront land acquisition preserving the river corridor and; 4. Support facilities and support facilities was a broad category of restrooms, shelters, and camping facilities. More discussion took place Dale said that there are three people in DNR that do the grant criteria professionally, they would welcome any comments from the Commission. Arin wanted to know if it had to be approved by the Commission; Dale replied that the Commission doesn't have to but that it is usually brought back for the Commission to take a look at. Kara said she would like to speak with Bob to see what the committee can get done before the retreat. At that point Kara said she didn't want to rewrite the wheel, she commented that she didn't realize to what extent that the DNR could do for the Commission. Kara said she would get in touch with Bob on Thursday.

John said that one thing he wanted to bring up was the fact that State of Indiana's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is coming up in '16. There was a brief discussion of including something in the current grant round, but it was decided it was too late. George, Bob and Dave each shared information as to where they were in their grant process.

**Water Trail** - No report.

**Banks of the Wabash** – Bob Shepherd reported John Gettinger had arranged for Mary Kramer from Art Spaces to speak at the BOW meeting. Discussion about the Bicentennial was also held and they decided on the slogan of "200 years along the Wabash."

## **Old Business**

### **Funding Requests**

**Wabash River Enhancement Corporation – Wabash Riverfest** – Jim made the motion to accept the request for a \$1,000 sponsorship for Riverfest being held July 12, 2014. 5,000 people are expected to attend. The Commission has a long history of funding this event. Bob seconded the motion. Motion passed. Ron Z. had a question about a sponsorship and wanted to know the protocol for obtaining the sponsorship. Dale told him to send him an email and he would get him the information.

**River Currents: Next edition article submission deadline** – Articles need to be submitted right away.

**Newport Chemical Depot Land “ReUse”** – Status – No report.

**Sign Programs** – Dale is working with the Division of Communications on the new art work.

**River Cleanups** – Dave announced that on August 3<sup>rd</sup> a cleanup would be held in Huntington County.

Kara said they had one in Terre Haute and she didn’t remember the exact date or how many tons of trash was removed, it was sponsored by ISU.

There will be one held in Wabash County Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> Mike announced.

**2014 Appointments** – There are still no appointments made for Allen, Gibson, Posey and Sullivan Counties. For those of you who are in attendance, please go back and remind your County Commissioners. The corridor is made up of 19 counties; the Commission is made up of participating counties. As of today we are only a 15 County Commission, Dale announced.

*Note: Posey and Allen counties had made appointments prior to this meeting, but the paperwork had not reached the DNR at the time of the meeting. Both of these counties were members at the time of the meeting.*

**2014 Retreat** – Dave asked Bob to share the suggested agenda for the upcoming retreat. The tentative schedule is as follows:

March 18 – 5:00 PM Dinner

6:30 Brief history of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

7:00 Grants Committee Meeting or social time.

March 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 AM Breakfast

8:45 Presentation of Grant Criteria

9:45 Strategic planning session

11:45 Lunch

1:00 PM regular WRHCC Meeting.

Dale suggested that the executive committee send him all of the information about three weeks before the retreat and he would get it printed and mailed. He has secured a block of rooms; he has a code to use to get the government discount and everyone is to make their own room reservations. It was suggested to ask John Goss as well as Greg Zoeller to speak on Wednesday. Dave said that he would like to encourage everyone to come to the retreat because it gives everyone a chance to get to know each other a little better.

## **New Business**

**Asian Carp** - Asian Carp was discussed at length and thoughts of how the WRHCC could get involved. John Gettinger said the 19 counties do have an interest in getting rid of the Asian carp. In John’s mind what the Attorney General did was really neat for the WRHCC; he stopped in many places and talked to people, all along his trip. It was mentioned that Purdue has an extensive program that has been studying the carp up and down the river for several years. Kara announced that there was an expert on Asian carp here today, Brendon Kerns. He has been on the river probably more than anyone in the room. You have a former DNR director, John Goss who is the Asian carp czar. Brendon went on to say that it is illegal to catch silver carp by net in the state of Indiana. Rae mentioned that she had talked with Greg Zoeller about this problem and he told her that the legislation can be worked on. Dave suggested adding this to the agenda for the next meeting because this discussion could take hours; he said they are defiantly a threat to the river, so any more input, facts, or information please bring it to the next meeting.

**Committee meetings** – Both the Executive Committee and the Grants Committee will be meeting very soon.

### **Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion**

Rae announced that in May there was going to be an event that would draw attention to the Asian Carp issue on the Maumee River. The save the Maumee trip is not really in the Wabash River corridor but they are going to be discussing the potential for Asian carp to cross the boundary waters. She felt as if the WRHCC should be prepared to make a statement concerning the Asian carp in the Wabash. Ron announced that it would be a day long trip that would go from Ft. Wayne to Toledo.

Mike gave an update on the Wabash River Defenders; he commented that there was not much trash left in the river in Wabash County. They are now entering into collaboration with Manchester University to study the 157 miles of tributaries that enter the Wabash River. They are looking at pollution such as phosphates, phosphorus, nitrogen and *e. coli*, entering the river. It's great that a lot has been cleaned out of the river, but there is also a lot feeding into the river from agricultural runoff. They have about \$4.5 million in grants from IDEM to help farmers improve their practices.

Arin asked about a future sponsorship that wasn't going to take place until August.

### **Next Meeting**

The March meeting will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at Turkey Run State Park, immediately following the retreat which starts on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.

May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting is in Cass County.

July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting is in Carroll County.

September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting is in Wabash County.

November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting is in Tippecanoe County.

January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting is at Ft. Benjamin Harrison.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob S. followed by a second from Dave. H. Motion passed.

**48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund**

FY14 as of :

12/31/2013

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		120,043.81
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	3,173.44	
516003	Payroll Social Security	222.35	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	95.21	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	355.45	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	212.36	
518151	Anthem Trad 2	225.11	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	4.29	
518798	Payroll Delta Dental Trad	21.95	
518800	Anthem Vision	2.38	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	0.56	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	55.81	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	23.65	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	19.19	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	119.35	
591024	NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	64.88	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	3,217.28	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	156	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	416.92	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	8,000.00	
659410	Postage	179.32	

**Total FY14 Expense To Date:      \$16,565.50**

Fund Balance:		
	6/30/2013	613,854
FY14 revenues		120,044
FY14 Expenses		16,566
FY14 Encumbrances		231,922
<b>balance as of 12/31/2013</b>		<b>485,410</b>

DNR payroll	\$4,411.75
travel costs	\$3,790.20
sponsorships	\$8,000.00
operating	\$363.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,565.50</b>